

# THE COURIER

Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center  
Volume 31, Number 3 (Fall 2007)

## William O. and Agnes Hastings Straw Fourth Owners of the O'Neil Robinson House

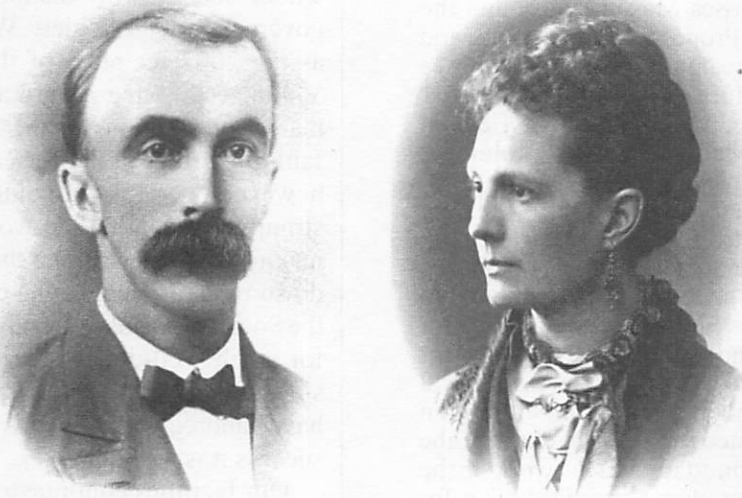
William O. Straw was born in Guilford, Maine, on 10 July 1841, one of thirteen children, the son of David Robinson Straw and Caroline Augusta Ayer Straw. He attended Guilford schools, graduated from Foxcroft Academy and became interested in stock farming. In 1863, he married his first cousin, Agnes Hastings, with the proviso that they would not have children. Born 8 August 1837, she was the only daughter of John and Abigail Straw Hastings of Bethel, who also had seven sons, five of whom reached adulthood. She attended Bethel schools and was a graduate of Gould Academy. She taught art in New Hampshire at one time and as an accomplished seamstress, musician and artist. An entertaining hostess, she was also a wide reader and delightful correspondent. Will and Agnes Straw lived in Hanover for several years, where he served as a Selectman of that town from 1869-1871. As

attested to by the Edgar Harvey Powers diary published elsewhere in this issue as well as other sources, their Hanover home was a favorite gathering place in the evening for young people. In 1881, Will Straw accepted a job as a head chainman for his brother-in-law (and first cousin) Daniel Straw Hastings (1840-1925), a civil engineer and chief surveyor for the Northern Pacific Railroad line between Odanah, Wisconsin, and Duluth, Minnesota. In 1883-84, Daniel and Will were assigned to survey a railroad line across Montana Territory from Billings to Fort Benton. It was during this expedition that they made the decision to obtain land in the Judith Basin in Fergus County, Montana. By 1885, they had filed claims upon each of the allowed forms of holdings, and settled their families on adjoining ranches totaling about 4000 acres each. The greater portion of the Straw's Montana ranch was devoted to raising hay, of which heavy yields were secured, while various lines of grain were also grown. They also raised cattle and horses extensively; this branch of their ranching enterprise flourished. Prior to 1898, the Straws gave much attention to the growing of sheep, and Agnes had her own small band of Dorset sheep that she personally herded

and cared for. The Straws were resident of Fergus County for nearly twenty-five years. With the coming of the railroad, the Straws donated forty acres of their ranch land for a village, which they had a strong interest in seeing developed. When the post office was established, it was given the name "Straw" to perpetuate Will and Agnes's name, since they had no children. At the turn of the century, they sold their ranch and returned to Bethel in 1903, purchasing for \$5000 the present Robinson House from Enoch and Sarah Foster, which at that

time was judged the most expensive home in Bethel. The Congregational Church, the Bethel Library, and Gould Academy, along with other local organizations and charities, benefitted from their interest and monetary gifts. After a period of declining health, William O. Straw died in Bethel on 1 November 1909, a much respected and trusted citizen. He had served on the "fire police" from 1905 to 1908 and on the Bethel Board of Selectmen from 1906-08. Agnes Hastings Straw was one of the first women trustees of Gould Academy, serving from

1912 to 1921 on the Board of the institution that her father helped found in 1836. Mrs. Straw was also a trustee of the Bethel Library and served as its treasurer, 1905-07. During her ownership of the Robinson House property, which also included Enoch Foster's former law office next door, she leased this building to the Bethel Library, which used it as their headquarters. Upon Mrs. Straw's death from pneumonia on 5 May 1923, ownership of this building was transferred to the Library along with an endowment of \$10,000. (In 1937, the former law office was moved back and a new front addition designed by famed Maine architect John Calvin Stevens was built, which is still in use today.) Following Mrs. Straw's death, the Robinson House and its lot were bequeathed to William S. Hastings, who sold it to Bethel Inn in November 1923. With modifications and upgradings, the building was used for guest housing and the back lot for the location of the Conference Center by Bethel Inn. The Inn sold the Robinson House and front portion of the lot to the Society in 1998. The following spring (April 1999) the Society moved into the building, located its administrative offices on the third floor and used the remaining rooms for exhibits, collection storage and the museum shop.



*William O. Straw (1841-1909) & Agnes Hastings Straw (1837-1923)*

*Photos courtesy of Barbara Hastings Honkala*

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Held on September 13

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting was held on 13 September in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House with President Allen Cressy presiding. President Cressy noted that the record for the 2006 Annual Meeting and the 2004 financial report had both appeared during the past year in *The Courier*. He then called for a moment of silence to honor all those Society members who had died since the last annual meeting. These included Frances Lane Dunn, Ethel Mann, Elizabeth Lord, Lillian A. Rose, John K. Brown, Edward Tremblay, John W. Howe, Persis Post, Gayland Dooen, Jean Mills Hutchins, Ruth Kittredge, Richard Durnin, and William Cousins. The President then reviewed some of the highlights since the last annual meeting. These included receiving over ninety gifts of artifacts, the gain of fifty-three new members, success of two course offerings on antiques and collectibles and genealogy, the opening of new exhibits (Androscoggin River, White Mountain souvenirs, the Huntoon Indian collection and Maine minerals), participation in a Museum Assessment Program Governance self-study, the undertaking of a capital and endowment campaign feasibility and planning study, the painting of the Dr. Moses Mason House and the upgrading of its alarm system. Proposed amendments and minor revisions to the bylaws were approved unanimously as were changes in the dues structure to go into effect on 1 January 2008. Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett presented the 2007 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award to longtime volunteer Adaline Clough, who has spent countless hours in the research library assisting researchers and gathering data from area cemeteries. Six members with long service to the Society were also honored with honorary memberships, the Society's membership honor. Those cited were Francis and Mary Lou Berry for their long service assembling and folding *The Courier* for mailing over many years, Musa Brown for being a loyal volunteer working on mailings and in the museum shop, John B. Head for his service as a trustee (six years), chair of the Investment and Annual Fund committees and his work on the Capital Campaign Planning Committee, Virginia Walker for her service in the museum shop, on the Program Committee and playing the piano at various Society functions through the years and finally Jane Young for her service on the Program Committee and as a loyal volunteer in assembling and folding issues of *The Courier*. Nominating Committee chair Dean Walker reported for the Nominating Committee, which also included Arlene Lowell and June Abbott: President, Allen Cressy; Vice President: Susan Herlihy; Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees: William Andrews; Treasurer: Walter Hatch; Trustees for 3 years: Tineke Ouwinga and Kathy Kunkle. This slate was unanimously approved by the membership. Retiring trustees June Abbott and John Head as well as Sarah Tucker were thanked for their dedicated service by President Cressy. Dean Walker and Arlene Lowell were elected without dissent as general membership representatives of the 2008 Nominating Committee. There were no other committee reports and the 2007 annual meeting was adjourned. Speaker for the evening was William B. Krohn, Ph.D., USGS Biological Resources, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Maine at Orono. Dr. Krohn presented a power point lecture on "Joshua Gross Rich (1820-1897): Western Maine Pioneer and Wildlife Writer." This lecture was one of the 2007 series on "Maine Character and Characters" made possible in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council. A bountiful pot luck dinner featuring roasted chicken breast preceded the annual meeting.

## President's Column

Having concluded the 2007 Annual Meeting, I would like to reflect on the past year. It has been another great time for the Society with many activities including the barn tour, community picnic featuring the Portland Brass Quintet, "Maine Character and Characters" lecture series, New Year's Bethel IX, and several new exhibits, which have positioned us as a "state-class" historical society. Our membership continues to grow; we now have 1446 members.

During our annual meeting, several new Honorary Members were added (see list in the Annual Meeting Report). I would like to congratulate them again for their long records of service. William Andrews was elected as the new Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Tineke Ouwinga and Kathy Kunkle are new Trustees. At the same time, we applauded our retiring Secretary Sarah Tucker and Board members June Abbott and John Head, all of whom served with distinction in contributing to the governance of the Society. We recognized Adaline Clough as the 2007 recipient of the Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award and I congratulate her on her many contributions to the Society including years as a faithful worker in the Research Library. We should not, however, overlook our volunteer corps—over one hundred strong—who continue to work hard during the past year, making possible many of the programs and activities that do so much to benefit the community and well-being of the Society. Thank you and congratulations to each of you for a job well-done! In addition, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to our staff, Stan, Randy and Danna, who have labored long and hard at making the Society the success it is.

Our facilities continue to improve. I am certain many of you who live nearby have noticed that the Dr. Mason House has received a badly-needed coat of fresh paint, thanks to Vern Davis and his crew and to our Barbara Willey Fund, which is dedicated to the upkeep of our buildings and grounds. The Mason house also received an upgraded alarm system as well.

As we get closer to the end of our fiscal year, please consider supporting the Annual Fund Campaign. We need to hear from each of you if we are to reach our goal of \$31,000, which will assist us in covering our operating and programming expenses.

Finally, plans are in place for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual New Year's Bethel program. It promises to be another exciting, family-oriented event which will have broad appeal. I hope to see you there!

As your President for one more year, I look forward to working with all of you as we begin the Society's 42<sup>nd</sup> year. If you are not already serving as a volunteer, please contact the Society office at 824-2908 and let us know that you are interested in helping out in some capacity.

Allen Cressy



## WESTERN MAINE SAINTS

### A Bethel Family (Frost)

#### Nauvoo, Bethel and Across the Plains to Utah

By Jayne W. Fife with Roselyn Kirk

On 7 October 1846, Brigham Young sent a letter from Winter Quarters, Nebraska, to Mary Pratt, who was living in a tent on the western shore of the Mississippi River. Young wrote that he had authorized one of the Church's agents left in Nauvoo to arrange for her to travel to Winter Quarters. But Mary chose to cross the river back to Nauvoo and remain there all winter. She moved, with others, into the former home of John D. Lee, who later wrote: "My large house, costing me \$8000....I was offered \$800 for. My fanaticism would not allow me to take that for it. I locked it up, selling only one stove out of it, which I received eighty yards of cloth. The building with its twenty-seven rooms, I turned over to the committee, to be sold to help the poor away. The committee informed afterwards that they sold the house for \$12.50."

In early June 1847, Mary and her children traveled to Winter Quarters, Nebraska, to tell Parley that they were returning to Maine. Parley had just started the journey west as one of the leaders of the second company, but rode a horse back to meet with her. He authorized his agent to provide her with some funds when their house sold, which he later accused her of taking and wasting. Mary remained in Winter Quarters.

Ten months later (April 1848), Mary was given \$200 by Church authorities. This was half the money left from the sale of their home after Parley's debts had been paid. The other half was given to Parley's brother, Anson, for the care of their mother, Charity, and his family.

On receipt of these funds, Mary and her three children, Mary Ann (age 15), Olivia (age 6) and Moroni (age 3 1/2) left for Bethel, Maine, where they lived with her parents. Daughter Mary Ann joined her cousins, Melvina and Nancy, daughters of Theodore Stearns, at the Gould Classical and English Academy. Family tradition indicates that her grandparents, Charles and Thankful Bartlett Stearns, paid each term's tuition of two dollars and fifty cents with the hope that she would not go back to the Mormons.

The Academy had been reopened in 1848 under the administration of its founder Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True (1812-1887). The fall of 1849 catalogue listed 160 students from many towns in Maine, as well as New Hampshire and Massachusetts. There were three departments: Classics, Common English and High English. The Classics Department included the study of Greek and Latin literature and languages. The Common English Department classes included Exercises in Reading and Declamation, Smith's Geography, Smith's and Weld's Parsing (grammar) Book, arithmetic, bookkeeping and penmanship.

Finally, students in the High English Department had a variety of class choices, different each year. Each term, one or more of the following lecture courses were taught. In the natural science were offered courses in human and comparative physiology, mineralogy, geology, physical

geography, botany, astronomy, and chemistry. Mental and moral science courses included rhetoric, philosophy, and moral science, while mathematics courses alternated among algebra, geometry, trigonometry, surveying, navigation, analytic geometry, and mechanics. French, Spanish, Italian and German were available to all.

The fall of 1849 catalogue announced that during 1850, "Lectures, and such other exercises will be introduced, as shall best fit Teachers for the duties of the schoolroom." It made an additional assurance that "students have access to the most valuable works on teaching, which have been published in this country."

There are no records of Mary Ann's classes, but it is probable that she was in the Common English program and took advantage of the teaching course because she became a well-known central Utah teacher.

According to Mary's son Moroni's biography, their New England relatives were very kind to them and offered "land and money if they would give up the Mormon religion and remain with them." But, in 1851, she and her three children left Bethel, possibly on the newly established Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad, which had first arrived in Bethel from Portland on 10 March of that year. The one way fare was \$2. Stopping with friends in St. Louis, Missouri, long enough for the children to attend school, they arrived in Kanessville, Iowa, in January of 1852, determined to cross the plains to the Utah Territory.

They had no idea how they could afford the wagon and supplies required for the three month journey. In the meantime, they supported themselves by baking bread, and then slicing and drying it in an oven. It was sold to California bound emigrants for food when it was not convenient to cook. They also made cotton flour sacks for emigrants to store food supplies in, which they sold at 75 cents per hundred. They made orange and blue calico shirts with ruffled necks and wrists for a group of Native Americans being taken by a church member to Washington, D.C., to meet the President.

At the beginning of May 1852, they were assigned to a wagon train, the 12<sup>th</sup> to be leaving that year. Within days, two friends who were not yet traveling west appeared at her door to inform her that they had put enough money in the Emigration Fund to supply her with a wagon and necessary provisions. A non-member grocery store owner sent word that if she would come personally to his business, he would give her \$10 worth of food. Despite the fact that she had never been in his store because he sold liquor, she did go this time and was given cornmeal, bacon, rice, dried codfish, dried fruit, soap, and a few other things. Days later she was introduced to a Scottish emigrant, David Murie, and his twelve year old son, Jimmie, who managed to buy a yoke of untrained oxen, but had no wagon.

On 10 June, they started west with members of the Harmon Cutler Company, which eventually included 262 persons, 63 wagons, 17 horses, 231 oxen, 171 cows, 154 sheep, and 20 dogs. Early on, they found that their load was too heavy. This presented the difficult task of choosing which items to leave behind. They also were given a second yoke of oxen which turned out to be as untrained as their



*Oscar Winters. Courtesy  
of Jayne Fife*

original team. The four animals were soon out of control, alternately stopping still or running wildly in circles, while David hung on valiantly and Mary frantically ran alongside the wagon picking up supplies falling in all directions. Once, the cattle turned quickly and sharply, nearly crushing her between their bodies and the wagon. They had fallen behind the rest of the group. Finally, a young teamster/scout, Oscar Winters, whom they had known in Nauvoo, found them stalled in the middle of the road. He took over both of the

teams and insisted on driving them to the river crossing. By the time they arrived, David had a better understanding of how to control them.

Cholera struck the company one evening after a rope-ferry crossing. Several men had been in the warm river all day steadying the raft and had liberally drunk the water. Mary used her homemade concoction of "charcoal and molasses, landanum and paregoric, camphor and a little cayenne pepper with as much raw flour as charcoal, and it proved to be a good remedy, for all that took it recovered except one older man."

A group, with about twenty wagons, including Mary and her family, decided to move ahead as more and more members of the larger group were suffering with cholera. Despite occasional violent rain and wind storms, they "plodded on day after day, sometimes making a fifteen mile drive but oftener twenty—no hurry—you could not change the gait of the oxen, but had to wait patiently their motion." It was clear that there was "no danger of getting left [since] most anyone can walk as fast a yoke of oxen can travel." The others never caught up. It was later reported that the group behind was attacked by Indians, and all their horses were stolen, leaving them frightened, but alive.

Mary Ann wrote in her autobiography that their team had settled down and finally made steady progress. The women could now knit and sew comfortably in the wagon, as the ground was quite level and the oxen were under control. She acknowledged the change: "Our morning's milk we put in our tea kettle, placed a cloth under the cover, put a cork in the spout, tied a cloth over that and tied it to the reach under the wagon; and no matter how hot the day was, the draft under the wagon made it very comfortable for our dinner, for there was a piece of butter the size of a teaspoon which was very fresh and sweet and the children took turns having it on bread."

On 16 August 1852, just before reaching their destination, the group came to a beautiful grove of trees at Deer Creek, now in Wyoming, where they discovered a primitive wooden stand and benches. The "sight of it was inspiring to the emigrants for it really looked like going to meeting again as they were used to doing in the groves and boweries before they started on their journey, and all moved around with

cheerful quietness and reverence for it seemed a visible testimony that God was with us and leading us on. There was a sacredness about it all that subdued all sounds and strengthened and encouraged to renew diligence. All labors were hastened to prepare for the Sabbath; the tires were wedged and tightened, the repairs completed, washing and cooking done and all retired to rest, but with the early dawn all were stirring again for the birds were singing a Sabbath chorus of praise.

"In the grove every heart was light and joyous for we now had passed the sickly portion of the journey and were nearing the goal of our hopes and desires. The sun arose on a scene of calmness and beauty. After the quiet breakfast and at a given signal all repaired to the grove with happy hearts to listen to the words of inspiration.... That familiar hymn, 'How Firm a Foundation' was sung, and after prayer by one of the aged brethren, and another hymn, testimonies were borne and counsel and instruction given by the Captain.... After the close of the meeting and the noon luncheon had been partaken of they enjoyed a season of quiet rest until the lowering sun.

"Just as the evening meal was about ready, a carriage was espied coming from the east.... it was Apostle Lorenzo Snow just returning from his mission to Italy. He was making a rapid journey across the plains with a carriage and horses stopping with the camps overnight and traveling on to the next in the daytime."

At that point, a romance which had budded during the last days in Nauvoo and blossomed during the journey west, culminated at Deer Creek. That evening, Apostle Snow married scout and teamster Oscar Winters, age 27 to Mary Ann Stearns, age 19. Mary Ann later wrote that she wore a green gingham dress and worried that she had no looking glass to make certain that her hair was arranged perfectly. Their wedding meal was "bread baked on a bake skillet, a piece of meat, a little lump of fresh butter with a cup of cold water." Her wedding gift from her husband was a dollar to buy a few necessities when they arrived in Salt Lake. Over the years, family members have celebrated this event by recalling, "a Snow married a Winters to a Frost" (Mary Ann's mother's maiden name).

Arriving in Salt Lake in early September 1852, Oscar and Mary Ann Stearns Winters were immediately sent to Battle Creek, a new settlement forty miles south of Salt Lake City. Mary, Olivia and Moroni remained with friends in Salt Lake. After Brigham Young approved her divorce from Parley in March 1853, she and the children settled into a small log cabin at the southwest corner of the new fort in Battle Creek.

In 1854, Parley stopped in Battle Creek on his way to another mission in California. Mary was present at the talk he gave to residents, but he recorded in his journal that they did not speak, although he did visit with his children and



*Mary Ann Stearns Winters  
Courtesy of Jayne Fife*



present them with gifts. He further wrote that Mary was now his enemy.

Parley was murdered in Arkansas on 12 May 1857, as he returned from a mission in the northeastern part of the United States. He was only fifty years old. He left behind 9 wives and 30 children, including Olivia and Moroni, but not counting Mary and another wife who had left him before his divorce from Mary.

Olivia was almost sixteen when she married Benjamin Driggs on 16 February 1857. They had twelve children. Over the years, Benjamin worked with his wheelwright father, served in the militia that faced off Johnston's Army near Fort Bridger and was a participant in the 1866 Black Hawk Indian War in central Utah. He was also a blacksmith, a contractor for grading a portion of the Union Pacific Railroad, as well as a successful local merchant. He had a second wife and served, under the Edmunds-Tucker Act, six months in the Territorial Penitentiary as a result.

Moroni married Caroline Beebe and raised ten children. Most of his education was obtained from his mother and stepsister, Mary Ann. He was an avid reader and had a natural talent for music, manifested by his conducting an orchestra for many years, as well as excelling on the violin. At some point, he invested in ox teams and wagons, and was one of the drivers that moved back and forth across the Plains to the Missouri River, carrying supplies as well as emigrants. As a member of the militia that fought the Black Hawk Indian War of 1866, he was later made an honorary Adjutant General for his efforts to obtain federal pensions for the participants. Five years after his death, survivors finally received compensation. He served Church missions to New England and England in between operating a saw mill in American Fork Canyon.

Except for four years when Mary traveled with Oscar, Mary Ann and their growing family as they served a mission to teach school in several newly formed central Utah town, they remained in Battle Creek, which eventually became Pleasant Grove. Oscar and two sons developed a farm and a molasses mill using sap from maple trees growing abundantly in the nearby canyon. Mary Ann taught school in their home. Their five daughters received advanced education and later taught school. Two of them married LDS apostles, one of whom, Heber J. Grant, became the seventh President of the Church.

Mary served for years as the only midwife in town. According to a granddaughter, "out of the hundreds of births at which she assisted, she never lost a single case." She used medicinal herbs, roots, bark, leaves, and seeds from her own garden or those she gathered around the countryside. Some of her choices were tansy, horehound, peppermint, rhubarb root, sage, catnip, kinnikinnick bark, Indian root, yarrow, and raspberry leaves which were dried and powdered. Medicinal powers were lost unless each item was obtained at the correct time of the year and properly cured. She had her own recipes for soothing teas, salves and lotions.

Her granddaughter, Augusta, once wrote that Mary was "by nature energetic, self-reliant, and blessed with enormous energy. She took charge of everything and everybody, even

my tiny mother who as little bigger than a child, and who always depended on her for aid and advice." In his biography, Moroni described his mother as "an affectionate, well-educated, refined and ambitious woman, equal to any and every occasion."

When she wasn't tending to a birth, she often could be found carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving wool. She also spun and wove flax from which she made yards and yards of fine lace "netting" for trimming undergarments or hand-woven linen squares.

Mary Ann Frost Stearns Pratt died on 24 August 1891. Her tombstone reads: "Her dear weary head is at rest. Its thinking and aching are 'ore. Her quiet immovable breast is heaved by afflictions no more."

### BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by emailing: [info@bethelhistorical.org](mailto:info@bethelhistorical.org)



*Danna Nickerson, Society Office Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and Curatorial Assistant, at the opening of the "Among Our White Mountain Souvenirs" exhibit at the Robinson House*

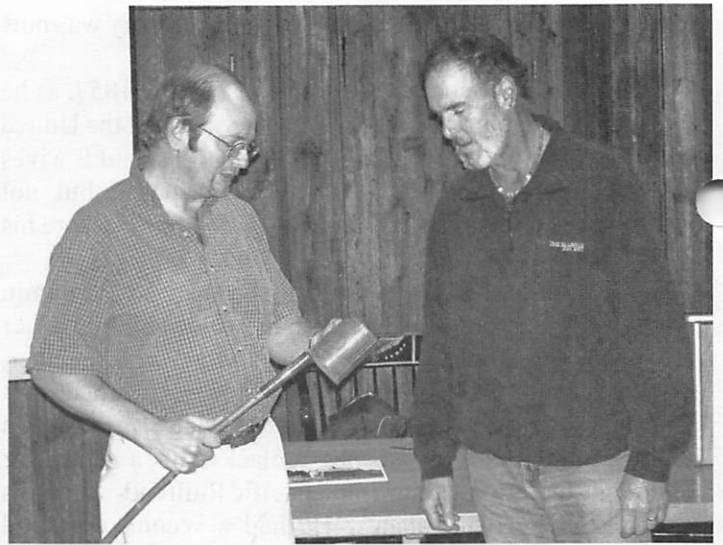
# Photo Gallery



*Model of the Hanover, Maine, ferry, part of "A River's Journey: The Story of the Androscoggin," an exhibit on view at the Robinson House through May 2009*



*June Abbott, Society Trustee and chair of the Art Committee, discusses the annual art show with Life Member Jim Lowe during Sudbury Canada Days in August*



*David Fuller (left) discussed a spruce gum collector with Society Trustee Bruce Pierce following his lecture on the history of the Maine spruce gum industry in October. This lecture was made possible in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council*



*Vandall T. King of Rochester, NY, presents the 2007 Hall Memorial Lecture during the annual summer heritage festival, Sudbury Canada Days, on the history of the Bumpus Mine in Albany*



*Ernest Angevine's mid-19th century English style barn on Bethel's North Road was one of a dozen barns included in this year's popular barn tour on September 15*

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005

Prepared by:  
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ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

To the Board of Trustees  
 Bethel Historical Society  
 PO Box 12  
 Bethel, ME 04217

We have compiled the accompanying statement of financial position of the Bethel Historical Society (a nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with Statements of Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Our compilation is limited to presenting in the form of financial statement information that is the representation of management. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

The schedule of functional expenses is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is limited to presenting information that is the representation of management. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying information, and accordingly, do not express an opinion or an other form of assurance on them.

*Bonita M. Sessions, CPA*  
 Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA  
 Certified Public Accountants  
 Bethel, ME 04217  
 November 9, 2007

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2006 and 2005**

Exhibit A

	2006	2005
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$91,909	\$109,138
Certificates of deposit	6,996	6,849
Inventory	34,326	35,294
Prepaid expenses	1,985	1,511
Investments - Marketable securities	517,860	473,926
Contributions receivable, net	36,060	34,620
Land, buildings and equipment	794,876	792,751
Less - Accumulated depreciation	(433,377)	(422,218)
Cash and investments restricted for long-term purposes	154,573	154,573
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$1,205,208</b>	<b>\$1,186,444</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$3,625	\$1,004
Accrued Expenses	1,760	2,677
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>5,385</b>	<b>3,681</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	900,539	889,422
Temporarily restricted	144,711	138,768
Permanently restricted	154,573	154,573
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,199,823</b>	<b>1,182,763</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$1,205,208</b>	<b>\$1,186,444</b>

See accountants' compilation report.  
 The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Statements of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2006**

Exhibit B

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>				
Contributions	\$28,905			\$28,905
Grants	500	2,719		3,219
Dues	9,617			9,617
Admissions and sales income	15,227			15,227
Capital campaign income		5,612		5,612
Rental income	465			465
Special event income	13,426			13,426
Less - Cost of special events	(10,820)			(10,820)
Investment income	15,211	16,670		31,881
Gain on sale of securities	13,303			13,303
Unrealized gain on marketable securities	39,602			39,602
Net assets released from restrictions	19,058	(19,058)		0
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>144,494</b>	<b>5,943</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150,437</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Program services	117,536			117,536
Support services	15,841			15,841
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>133,377</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>133,377</b>
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$11,117</b>	<b>\$5,943</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$17,060</b>

See accountants' compilation report.  
 The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Statements of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2005**

Exhibit B

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>				
Contributions	\$27,155			\$27,155
Grants	1,525	4,485	-	6,010
Dues	11,352	-	-	11,352
Admissions and sales income	16,057	-	-	16,057
Capital campaign income	-	8,500	-	8,500
Rental income	435	-	-	435
Special event income	16,158	-	-	16,158
Less - Cost of special events	(9,251)	-	-	(9,251)
Investment income	14,409	12,201	-	26,610
Gain on sale of securities	13,788	(55)	-	13,733
Unrealized gain on marketable securities	(18,529)	-	-	(18,529)
Net assets released from restrictions	15,696	(15,696)	-	0
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>88,795</b>	<b>9,435</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98,230</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Program services	109,177	-	-	109,177
Support services	12,697	-	-	12,697
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>121,874</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>121,874</b>
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>-\$33,079</b>	<b>\$9,435</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$23,644</b>

See accountants' compilation report.  
 The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**



**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Statements of Changes in Net Assets**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2006 and 2005**

**Exhibit C**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Balance, at January 1, 2005</b>	922501	129333	154573	1206407
<b>Increase(Decrease) in Net Assets 2005</b>	<u>(33,079)</u>	<u>9,435</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(23,644)</u>
<b>Balance, at December 31, 2005</b>	889,422	138,768	154,573	1,182,763
<b>Increase(Decrease) in Net Assets 2006</b>	<u>11,117</u>	<u>5,943</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,060</u>
<b>Balance, at December 31, 2006</b>	<u>\$900,539</u>	<u>\$144,711</u>	<u>\$154,573</u>	<u>\$1,199,823</u>

See accountants' compilation report.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Statements of Functional Expenses**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2006**

**Exhibit D**

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Supporting Services</u>	<u>Total</u>
Advertising	\$212		\$212
Bank Charges		395	395
Book Acquisitions	211		211
Bookkeeping expense		504	504
Building maintenance	16,475	1,831	18,306
Depreciation	10,043	1,116	11,159
Director's expense		500	500
Dues	473	53	526
Heat, lights, and water	10,234	1,137	11,371
Insurance	17,281	1,393	18,674
Intern Costs	1,000		1,000
Janitorial services	2,389		2,389
Merchandise for resale	6,551		6,551
Miscellaneous		509	509
Office supplies and printing	4,809	534	5,343
Postage	2,781	309	3,090
Professional fees		4,650	4,650
Salaries	40,001	2,553	42,554
Taxes	3,535	186	3,721
Telephone	<u>1,541</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>1,712</u>
Total functional expenses	<u>\$117,536</u>	<u>\$15,841</u>	<u>\$133,377</u>

See accountants' compilation report.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Statements of Functional Expenses**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2005**

**Exhibit D**

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Supporting Services</u>	<u>Total</u>
Advertising	\$227	-	\$227
Bank Charges	-	245	245
Bookkeeping expense	-	436	436
Building maintenance	2,049	227	2,276
Depreciation	18,716	2,080	20,796
Director's expense	-	300	300
Dues	601	67	668
Heat, lights, and water	10,638	1,182	11,820
Insurance	14,749	1,189	15,938
Janitorial services	1,757	-	1,757
Merchandise for resale	8,711	-	8,711
Miscellaneous	-	3,085	3,085
Office supplies and printing	5,759	640	6,399
Postage	2,924	325	3,249
Professional fees	-	150	150
Salaries	38,230	2,440	40,670
Taxes	3,488	184	3,672
Telephone	<u>1,328</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>1,475</u>
Total functional expenses	<u>\$109,177</u>	<u>\$12,697</u>	<u>\$121,874</u>

See accountants' compilation report.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2006 and 2005**

**Exhibit E**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>		
Increase (Decrease) in net assets	\$17,060	(\$23,644)
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	11,159	20,796
(Gain) Loss on sale of securities	(13,303)	(13,733)
Unrealized (Gain) Loss on change in value of marketable securities	(39,602)	18,529
(Increase) Decrease in operating assets:		
Prepaid expenses	(474)	(1,511)
Inventory	968	-
Contributions receivable	(1,440)	(1,652)
Increase (Decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable	2,621	(1,672)
Accrued expenses	<u>(917)</u>	<u>2,340</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(23,928)</u>	<u>(547)</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>		
Capital expenditures	(2,125)	(1,984)
Purchase of investments	(148,136)	(40,802)
Proceeds from sale of investments	157,107	57,096
Maturity (purchase) of certificates of deposit with terms greater than three months	<u>(147)</u>	<u>2,846</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>6,699</u>	<u>17,156</u>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<u>(17,229)</u>	<u>16,609</u>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, at beginning of year</b>	<u>109,138</u>	<u>92,529</u>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, at end of year</b>	<u>\$91,909</u>	<u>\$109,138</u>

See accountants' compilation report.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2006 and 2005**

**NOTE 1: Significant Accounting Policies**

**Organization's activities:**

The Organization is a society which promotes the preservation of the history of Bethel, Maine. The Society's primary revenues are donations, dues, admission fees, retail sales, and fees from special events. Other sources of revenue include grants and earnings on investments.

**Basis of presentation:**

In 1996, the Organization elected to adopt Statement of Financial Accounting Standards SFAS No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*. Under SFAS No. 117, the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: Unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted assets, and permanently restricted net assets. In addition, the Organization is required to present a statement of cash flows.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Net assets and revenues, expenses, gains, and losses are classified and reported as follows:

**Unrestricted net assets** - Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

**Temporarily restricted net assets** - Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that may or will be met, either by actions of the Organization and/or the passage of time.

**Permanently restricted net assets** - Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained permanently by the Organization. Generally, the donors of these assets permit the Organization to use all or part of the income earned on any related investments for general or specific purposes.

**Expiration of donor-imposed restrictions:**

The expiration of a donor-imposed restriction on a contribution or on endowment income is recognized in the period in which the restriction expires and at that time the related resources are reclassified to unrestricted net assets. A restriction expires when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

**Collections:**

The Society does not capitalize its collections. The collections consist of artifacts of historical significance and art objects which are held for educational, research, and custodial purposes. The Organization protects, cares for, preserves and keeps its collections unencumbered, subject to a policy that requires proceeds from their sales to be used to acquire other items for collections.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2006 and 2005**

**NOTE 2: Contributions Receivable**

Included in contributions receivable are the following unconditional promises to give:

	2006	2005
Contributions receivable	\$60,000	\$60,000
Less: Unamortized discount (rate of 4%)	23,940	(25,380)
	<u>\$36,060</u>	<u>\$34,620</u>

The entire amount is due in 2019 and is considered collectible.

**NOTE 3: Land, Building and Equipment**

		Cost	
	Years	2006	2005
Land and building	37-40	\$578,621	\$578,621
Improvements	15-40	153,661	153,661
Equipment	10-May	62,594	60,469
		<u>\$794,876</u>	<u>\$792,751</u>

**NOTE 4: Investments - Marketable Securities**

Investments in securities are recorded at their fair values, which are based on quoted market prices for individual debt and marketable securities and published unit values for mutual funds. Purchased securities are recorded at cost as of their trade dates. Donated securities are recorded at their market value. Contributions of donated non-cash assets are recorded at their fair values in the period the first received. Contributions of donated services that create or enhance non-financial assets or at December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

	2006		2005	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Stocks	\$132,697	\$193,522	\$165,335	\$227,342
Mutual funds	230,754	267,788	148,462	163,839
Corporate bonds	155,000	154,764	155,000	150,211
Government bonds	40,114	39,948	70,285	69,920
Total marketable securities	<u>\$558,565</u>	<u>\$656,022</u>	<u>\$539,082</u>	<u>\$611,312</u>

Market value exceeds cost by \$97,457 and \$72,230 at December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2006 and 2005**

**NOTE 1: Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Cash:**

For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Organization considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash or cash equivalents.

**Inventories:**

Inventories are stated at lower of cost or market value, with cost generally determined on the first-in, first-out method.

**Land, building and equipment:**

Purchases of property are capitalized at cost. Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Minor additions and replacements and routine repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred.

**Contributions:**

Contributions, including unconditional promises to give, are recorded as made. All contributions are available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Unconditional promises to give, due in the next year, are recorded at their net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give, due in subsequent years, are reported at the present value of their net realizable value, using risk-free interest rates applicable to the years in which the promises are to be received.

**In-kind contributions:**

Contributions of donated non-cash assets are recorded at their fair values in the period received. Contributions of donated services that create or enhance non-financial assets or that require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically be purchased if not provided by donation, are recorded at their fair values in the period received.

**Advertising:**

The Organization uses advertising to promote its programs among the public it serves. Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising was \$ 212 and \$ 227 for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

**Income Taxes:**

No provision for income taxes has been made due to the Organization's tax exempt status under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

**Use of estimates:**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2006 and 2005**

**NOTE 5: Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Net Assets**

Temporarily restricted and permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 2006 and 2005 were available for the following purposes:

	2006	2005
Capital campaign	\$93,894	\$111,215
Mollycoddett world exhibit	537	517
Scholarships	1,453	574
Austin Twitchell collection/Moses Mason House	41,000	22,595
Special events	7,827	3,867
	<u>\$144,711</u>	<u>\$138,768</u>

Permanently restricted net assets are as follows:

	2006	2005
Collections and preservation of buildings	\$122,378	\$122,378
Special events	20,000	20,000
Plants for buildings and grounds	4,860	4,860
Scholarships	4,275	4,275
Books and genealogical materials	2,560	2,560
Noll award	500	500
	<u>\$154,573</u>	<u>\$154,573</u>

**NOTE 6: Release from Restrictions**

Program restrictions were satisfied during the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005 by incurring expenses for the restricted purposes specified by the donors as follows:

	2006	2005
Capital campaign	\$9,210	\$11,577
Willey fund for Moses Mason House Maintenance	7,035	-
Hall fund for Sudbury Canada	1,408	\$1,070
Brown fund for plants	105	-
Ames fund for books	210	-
Special events	1,089	-
Barn again exhibit	-	1,001
Ham/Orino fund exhibit cases	-	2,048
	<u>\$19,057</u>	<u>\$15,696</u>

**NOTE 7: Fundraising Expenses**

Total fundraising expenses were \$12,620 and \$11,577 for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005 respectively.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**





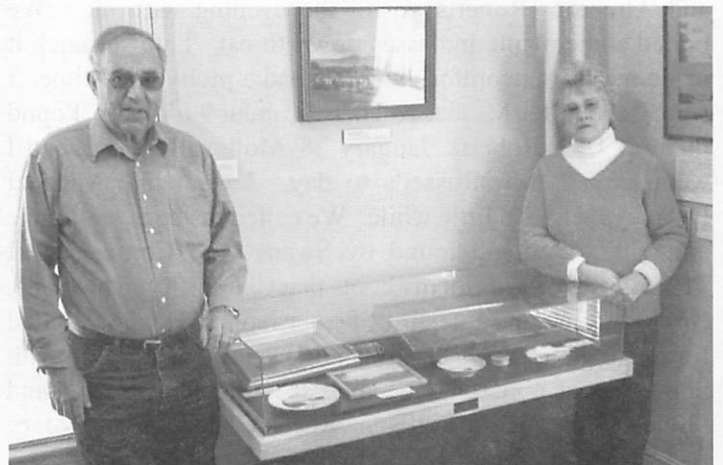
*New Honorary Members presented certificates at the Annual Meeting were (left to right) Jane Young, Virginia Walker, Musa Brown and John Head. Absent from photo were: Francis and Mary Lou Berry*



*Adaline Clough with the 2007 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award presented at the Annual Meeting for her outstanding record of dedicated volunteer service*



*William Krohn, Ph.D., USGS Biological Resources Division, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, University of Maine, Orono, presented a lecture at the Annual Meeting on "Joshua Gross Rich (1820-1997): Western Maine Pioneer and Wildlife Writer" made possible in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council*



*Society Trustee Arlan Jodrey and his wife, Eleanor, with the display case they donated in memory of Stan and Elizabeth Lord, Mrs. Jodrey's parents*

## Diary of Edgar Harvey Powers

(continued from the last issue)



*Editor's Comment: Additional information on Edgar Harvey Powers has come to light since the last issue. At the time of his death in 1894, Powers was a member of Bear River Grange in Newry. He also served as a District Deputy Grand Master of No. 16 Masonic District of Maine. He moved to Blazing Star Masonic Lodge at Rumford Center in 1876. His two sons were named Linwood (b. 26 August 1867) and Harvey E. (b. 13 March 1880). He died intestate according to the probate records at the Oxford County Registry in South Paris. His estate totaled \$1721.34 (Real Estate \$1000; Goods and Chattels \$582.90; Rights and Credits \$138.44).*

January 25—Went to mill. Mother [Hannah Andrews Powers] and Selina [Williams] went over to Rumford Corner to do some trading. They do not expect Peter Beans girl [Ellen E.] to live. I called and got William Barker to cut my hair. January 26—Went up and chopped wood for Peter Y. Bean this afternoon. Milton Roberts, Cyrus Bartlett, Wm Barker, and afterwards, Ball B. and Nick [probably Octavia N.] Willis come [sic] up. I went to Lyceum with Gardner and Genie. Enjoyed myself very much, although there was not much of a Lyceum. I acted as President, and gave a declamation. Gardner spoke his tail holt. Very clear and beautiful this evening. Genie told me what she dreamed the night she put the wedding cake under her pillow. Uncle [sic] Saunders [Stephen, Jr.] is quite sick. They do not think he will get well. January 27—Edwin brought Theresa down today. Went into the woods and got a load of wood. Gardner and Almeron [Roberts] spent the evening with me. We boiled some maple molasses down to eat. I ate so much it made me feel uncomfortable. We had a pretty good time. I went down after Mother & Theresa about 9 o'clock. Found them at J. G. Roberts. January 28—Mother, Theresa, and I went over to Mr. Russells to day. I went into Michael Delaneys school a little while. We called to see Sewell Lane and wife. Went up round by Swans [sic] Corner. Left Theresa at Newry. Got my boots that Charles Ryerson made. Just got home and Lucien L. Foster [son of Reuben] called for me to go up to Newry to singing school. I went up with him. We got home about ten. Pat harnessed the colt and drove him down to the village. Received a letter from Mary E. [Howe, daughter of Eli] Lampher. Corydon [Powers, son of Orson, his cousin] got home to night. A very pleasant day. Sent a dollar up to Mrs. Stearns by Halena Eames. January 29—Cod [Corydon] called down here this forenoon. He has re-enlisted, and is home on furlough. Got two loads of wood. Peter Bean has lost his other girls [Ellen B., town records show 30 January 1864 for date of death]. She died this morning. Mrs. Swan's child was buried today. Loch has been down here this evening. It has been very warm and pleasant day. Tim Jewett and Hervey Hastings just called to see about

the exhibition. Sent word out to Ellis River when it would be. January 30—Went into the woods and got two loads of wood. Went up to Newry with Hoosae [animal's name ?] Carried my boots that Charles Ryerson made me back. They was [sic] not large enough. Sewell Lane was over to day to buy my colt. It is first rate sleighing now. Cloudy with a little snow. Pat harnessed the red colt day before yesterday and drove her up to Unckle [sic] Ors [Orson Powers]. January 31—Snowed about three inches. Ezra T. R. [Russell] came along and wanted me to go up home with him. We went to meeting in the afternoon. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Garland. Text 22 Chap. Rev. 17 verse. Stopped to Russells [sic] for supper. Come [sic] down and Russell wanted an introduction to Han E. Black, so we called and I gave him an introduction. I preached my sermon to Aunt Roxy. February 1—Mr. Moore and Charles was [sic] here to day to look at the sugar place. Cod come [sic] down here and stopped an hour or two this afternoon. Got one load of wood. Commenced to snow about noon, and has snowed very fast all afternoon. Went down to the Point to get the colt shod. Called into James G. R----- and spent the evening. Enjoyed myself very much. Genie let me read a little of her diary. I have something to tell her in that line. Mrs. Roberts told a story that made me laugh more than I have laughed for a week. Lyman Russell [son of Elijah W.] died this morning. I think Genie is a fine girl. I enjoy myself better in her society than any young lady of my acquaintance. February 2—Snowed about a foot. Mr. Roberts and Genie called here this morning to leave some bottles. They were going to see Unkle [sic] Saunders. He is failing. Lyman Russell was buried today. I helped Mr. Straw haul a load down to mill. It has been quite warm today. Old White called here to get some milk. Sent a letter to Mary E. Lampher. Milton Roberts had a talk with some one this evening. February 3—Mr. Straw helped me haul wood in the forenoon. I went up to Browns [sic] to day to get a dialogue. Called to see Ollin [Saunders]. He is teaching school in the upper district. Unkle [sic] Saunders is not any better. Loch called in here this evening. Been quite warm to day. Hauled three loads of wood down the sugar house. February 4—Corydon stayed with me last night. We did not go to sleep until three o'clock. Have been to work in the woods to day. Matilda [brother, Augustine's wife] and Theresa come [sic] down to day. They are going to stay two or three days. Fosters [sic] folks, Ezra T. Russell, Corydon and I went up to Straws [sic] and spent the evening. Mr. Barker stays here to night. He peddles fluid ink, etc. Corydon and Aunt Sally [Hubbard Powers, wife of Orson] went up to see Theresa and Edwin to day. It has been a beautiful day. Seemed like spring. February 5—I went down to the Point with a load of oats. Let Bolster have them. He paid 65 cts. per bushel. Carried Mother, Theresa, and Matilda up to Aunt Julia's [Julia Andrews Stearns, widow of B. Franklin]. They made Aunt Sally [Powers] a visit in the afternoon. Mr. and Mr. Straw called down here in the evening. I had a bad headache and had to go to bed. February 6—Edwin come [sic] down to day, and he and I went down to [Rumford] Point to do some





have been into Mr. [ William O.] Straws [*sic*] this evening. Had a pleasant call. Pat has been down to see Frank Bartlett [adopted son of Stephen and Martha Stearns Bartlett] this evening. Estella Roberts is very sick. I guess they do not expect her to get well. Ned [Edwin Lane] gone to Livermore to get a sleigh for the minister. He took my fur collar. Sophia Roberts [daughter of James G. Roberts] was taken with Diptheria [*sic*] to day. Milton Roberts has gone after an Indian woman doctor for James [*sic*] folks. February 12–Hauled two logs down to mill. Estella R[oberts, daughter of James G. Roberts] is very sick. Doctor [Zenas Willis] Bartlett came up to see James [*sic*] folks this afternoon. Ned come [*sic*] come back from Livermore to day. Abby Howe [daughter of Joel and Dorcas] was taken with Diptheria [*sic*] today. Liz Roberts got an answer to the letter she wrote to Fred Carlton to day. I do not think I shall get an answer to mine. It has been quite cold to day. February 13–Hauled two logs to mill. They think Estella is a little better. I got started to Newry to singing school with Loch. Come [*sic*] home with a bad headache. Mr. Bessie from Paris staid here last night. They are going to have an exhibition next Tues. eve. It is fristrate [*sic*] sleighing now. Has been warm enough to thaw today.

*(to be continued in the next issue)*

### **New Life Members**

Mark E. Freeman, Panama City, FL  
John R. Chandler, Lovell  
Roberta M. Chandler, Lovell

### **In Memoriam**

24 July 2005, Mary Sanborn Calderwood, Mesa, AZ,  
Life Member

### **SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

Allen Cressy, President; Susan Herlihy, Vice President; William Andrews, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Walter Hatch, Treasurer; Trustees: Bruce Pierce, Arlan Jodrey, Sylvia Clanton, Kathy Kunkle, Tineke Ouwinga

### **ANNUAL FUND**

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.



### **MEMBER PROFILE**

#### **Tineke Ouwinga**

Tineke Ouwinga, the daughter of Jan Zwolsman and Elisabeth Johanna Hart, was born in the Netherlands in 1941. She attended local schools until 1952 when her family moved to Brussels, Belgium, where she completed her education at the Lyceum and her training to become an elementary teacher at the Rijksnormaal Scholen in Lacken. Seeking to improve her English language skills and to satisfy a certain curiosity, she emigrated to Canada in 1961. After one year working as a nanny, she went to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she completed her B.A. degree and met Marvin Ouwinga, whom she married in 1965. After teaching in Ontario, Michigan, and Indiana, she took a five year break to raise her children, Robrecht and Marlies, while working on a M.A. in French literature from Western Michigan University. In 1976, she and her family moved to Bethel to teach French at Gould Academy, where she served until June 2007. During that time, she was chair of the Foreign Language Department from 1977 to 2005. Long involved in the West Parish Congregational Church, she currently serves as a choir member and deacon. She has been a volunteer at the Society many years serving as a member of the Garden and Grounds Committee, assisting with the children's events at Sudbury Canada Days, and acting as a guide in the Dr. Mason House Museum. She was elected a trustee at the annual meeting in September. Her hobbies include walking, singing, reading learning about gardening, working on family genealogy, and playing with her grandchildren.



## Editor's Corner

In the September 2007 issue of the *Journal of American History*, there appeared two articles (pages 498-521) relating to the so-called "New Mormon History." I found these particularly enlightening since they tended to underscore the importance and appropriateness of recent articles we have been publishing in *The Courier* relating to Mormon history and the migration of its faithful from the Bethel area to Salt Lake City. Even if one is a believer and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it is now deemed possible to produce scholarly and respected treatments of the Church's history as Richard Lyman Bushman has so definitively done in his recent biography of Church founder Joseph Smith published in 2005. Bushman is a Harvard University trained historian (Ph.D., 1961), who has written and published extensively on colonial American history. In 1992, his reputation as a leading colonial American historian was such that he was appointed the Gouverneur Morris Professor of History at Columbia University. So it is reassuring to note that in a very modest manner we are adding to the existing knowledge of a religious movement that has since its beginnings in the 1830s become the fourth largest church in the United States.

SRH

## Book Note

*Life by the Tracks: When Passenger Trains Steamed through the Notch.* By Virginia C. Downs. (West Kennebunk, ME: Phoenix Publishing, 1983. Pp. 113. Paper. \$14.95).

This book captures the intriguing story of a family living in a Maine Central Railroad section house perched high up on an isolated slope of Mt. Willard in New Hampshire's White Mountains. As freight trains loaded with passengers thundered constantly by their home, Hattie Evans, whose husband had been killed by a steam engine accident, fed and housed the section men, who maintained that part of the steep mountain grade. In the morning, her children boarded the trains to get to school, which slowed down enough to allow them to jump aboard. Although burdened with seemingly endless chores and unexpected challenges, "Indomitable Hattie," still spent time with her children, maintaining strong family ties and inculcated traditional values of honesty and integrity. Although she is the central figure in this saga, she is not the only interesting character cited as other memorable "characters" appear to enliven the text and provide a fuller picture of this bygone era.

The nostalgia of the steam locomotive era is brought to life in this book, which is based on the oral history of railroading in the White Mountains. Trains appeared to pass almost within touching distance of the house as they brought summer visitors to the venerable Crawford House. A large number of interviews provide innumerable details relative to the life and story of this remarkable family who once resided next to the steepest railroad track in the eastern part of the American northeast.

SRH

For ordering information, please see page 12

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Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908 or 1-800-824-2910. FAX (207) 824-0882  
E-Mail: [info@bethelhistorical.org](mailto:info@bethelhistorical.org) ISSN0749-9208

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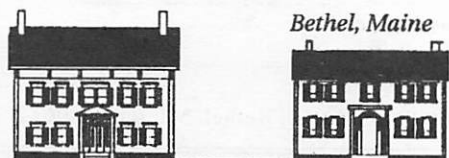
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